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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 817  
By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION encouraging the Department of Human Services and the Day Care Standards Committee to study the development of additional standards for child care centers.

WHEREAS, in order to ensure the safety of this state's most valuable resource, our children, accreditation of Tennessee's child care industry is a necessity. There must be a process for incremental increases in the qualifications of child care center directors and care givers in order for the best care available to be given to our children; and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve having the highest possible level of qualified staff in our child care system, this General Assembly encourages consideration of the recommendation that through accreditation, no person may serve as a child care center director who does not have a minimum of sixty (60) semester hours, or [two (2) years], of college training, with at least thirty (30) semester hours completed in child or youth development, early childhood education, or related field, or business or management. In addition to these requirements, as a part of the

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college training, the director should have one semester of work experience, including fiscal responsibility, with young children in a group setting; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly also encourages consideration of the recommendation that no person may be employed as a care giver for a child care center who has not completed at least twelve (12) clock hours in pre-service training in child development, early childhood training, health/safety or other training specifically related to children, in addition to fifteen (15) semester hours of college training toward an associate's degree related to child or youth development, early childhood development, or a related field; and

WHEREAS, such measures ensure that the most qualified care giver would be used to take care of our children; the quality of our state's child care givers will advance by specifying that the directors and care givers at child care centers throughout this state be certified with the state, and have the degrees necessary to ensure that our children will be mentally and physically ready to succeed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Department of Human Services and the Day Care Standards Committee are hereby encouraged to jointly study the feasibility of developing additional standards and qualifications for the staff of child care centers, including directors and care givers, through which additional standards and qualifications would encourage the employment of the most qualified staff possible, consistent with available funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That such joint study shall specifically address the proposals suggested by House Bill 2130 of the One Hundred First General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Human Services and the Day Care Standards Committee shall report all findings and recommendations relative to such study, including any proposed legislation, to the respective chairs of the Health and Human Resources

Committee and the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee, no later than February 1, 2001.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Human Services.